

Verizon's petition to kill wireless number portability is an entirely self-serving, anti-competitive proposition. Consumer's best interests can only be served by the increased competition that number portability would encourage. The inability of a consumer to keep their wireless number when switching carriers obviously provides a barrier to switching, that would in turn diminish competition. As reliance on wireless communication grows and wireless devices supplant landline devices, number portability will be even more important. Just as landline numbers are portable when switching carriers, wireless numbers should also be portable. While the industry estimate that it may cost \$1 billion in the first year for portability is highly questionable, assuming that industry passes the entire cost on to the consumer, this would average out to only approximately \$8 per year per consumer (or about 66 cents per month) for the first year and half that thereafter. The increased competition would likely drive costs down so that consumers would come out ahead. In closing, I repeat, do NOT kill wireless number portability rule.

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